

# #155 WRITE ABOUT SOMEONE WITH A DIRTY JOB.

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When it comes to the notion of “dirty jobs,” prostitution often springs to mind, predominantly associated with women. It’s ingrained in our mental landscape, although acknowledging its incorrectness is a crucial step. Comparatively, some might argue that begging is a more acceptable alternative to selling one’s body. Yet, how many of us, who hold negative perceptions of sex workers, have taken the time to understand their hardships or the circumstances that led them into this profession?

Often, they are only seen through the lens of their occupation, which is fundamentally flawed. If the aim is to eradicate sex work, shouldn’t our disdain be directed towards the clients who seek out these services? Personally, I don’t consider myself exceptionally open-minded or progressive, but if given the chance to engage with sex workers, my initial response would be one of empathy.

In the Gospel, Jesus famously declared that only those without sin could cast the first stone at a woman caught in adultery, resulting in everyone present walking away, acknowledging their own shortcomings.

If we were in that situation, many of us would likely have been complicit in the woman's actions, yet reluctant to admit our involvement. This narrative isn't exclusive to women; men are also subject to exploitation, with women often driving them into prostitution to satisfy their desires.

It's not my intention to delve into the complexities of sex, love, lust, or commitment to a single partner. In both scenarios, individuals involved in sex work are engaging in transactions where they exchange something they have for something they desire. My intention is not to endorse or delve into the intricacies of this profession, but rather to emphasize the importance of not burdening sex workers with guilt. Instead, if there's an opportunity to offer support and improve their circumstances, it should be pursued. Alternatively, allowing them the agency to navigate their lives in their own way is equally valid. However, treating them with disdain and disgust is something I find difficult to reconcile.

Normal Person: Excuse me, may I have a moment to talk?

Sex Worker: Of course, what's on your mind?

Normal Person: I just wanted to say that I see you as more than just your circumstances. You're a person deserving of dignity and respect.

Sex Worker: Thank you, that means a lot.

Normal Person: Society often overlooks the struggles you face, but that doesn't mean they're any less real. You deserve support and understanding.

Sex Worker: It's rare to hear such empathy. Thank you.

Normal Person: We all have a role in creating a more compassionate world. If there's anything I can do to advocate for your rights or offer assistance, please let me know.

Sex Worker: Your words are a reminder that change is possible. Thank you for caring.

Normal Person: We're all in this together. Let's work towards a society where everyone is valued and supported.

Sex Worker: Agreed. Thank you for seeing me as more than just a stereotype.